

CHIPPEWA VALLEY SCHOOLS

January 3, 2017

MIAMI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
41290 Kentvale
Clinton Township, MI 48038
Craig Bulgrin—Principal
(586) 723-6000 OFFICE

MACUL Awards Committee:

What could be better than a leader in technology who makes sure that his district has not only technology to use, but also the training necessary to use it? That's easy, a leader like Craig McBain in your school district. Mr. McBain is an educational leader who does these things with humor, wit, and creativity. Whether he is helping people pioneer the unknown world of SMARTBoards, or "*DIGging*" through Office 365, he finds creative ways to introduce new technology while keeping our district teachers and employees in touch with the latest educational features.

As an elementary art teacher in Chippewa Valley Schools, I first started working with Mr. McBain when our district rolled out a plan to put a SMARTBoard in every classroom. Under his leadership, a tiered program was created with *Pioneers* who blazed the trail for other teachers. His positive outlook and foresight for continuous improvement led to the implementation of SMARTBoard Facilitators who were put in place to assist teachers with implementing the 21st century classroom technology. These positions allowed Mr. McBain to share his love and talent for technology while growing multiple opportunities for teachers to learn best practice for implementing the technology in their classroom. Through this initiative, teachers across our district appreciated the organized and extensive training and support that was put into place so that everyone could use the technology to its fullest potential.

As a member of Chippewa Valley's Digital Innovator Group, established by Mr. McBain, I have seen firsthand how his leadership and collaboration skills have empowered teachers from around the district to meet and discuss best practice using technology innovations to better meet the needs of our students. His attention to detail and pulse on what educators' want and need in regards to effective professional development, has allowed Mr. McBain to execute well-planned district technology trainings to explore our district's technology initiatives. One of my favorite and most popular professional development initiatives for district employees is his *Gears, Peers, and Beers* workshops where educators are invited to relax and enjoy refreshments while learning fun quick tips about the technology available to them.

I am extremely confident in nominating Mr. McBain for the Digital Leadership award. Not only does he continuously support the technology in our district and make sure that he knows what training people are looking for, but he does it in a way that people respond to. Whether it's a witty email about the removal of our old storage U: drive featuring the lyrics "*Goodbye to U,*" or an update featuring clever animation and motivational slogans, Mr. McBain is an outstanding educational leader who truly has an impact on the employees, teachers and students of Chippewa Valley Schools.

Sincerely,

Amy Yednock

Amy Yednock
Art teacher
Miami Elementary